



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

August 5, 1963

37536

(1)

Heinrichs W. Bagatais

During the early part of 1963 NY T-1 another government agency which conducts security type investigations advised that Heinrichs W. Bagatais a former chairman in 1957 of Daugavas Vanagi (Latvian Veterans Organization), New York City, New York, is suspected of Russian intelligence service involvement by an official German source. Bagatais has spent the past year in Australia and was expected to arrive in New York during the early part of 1963. Some of his personal belongings were known to be stored with Irena Nadzins a nurse who resides at 412 Cathedral Parkway West, New York, New York. NY T-1 described Bagatais as a quiet person, fairly intelligent and likeable and he is on friendly terms with the family of Edgars (or Edwards) Rickstins residing at 101 or 107 West 109th Street, New York, New York. Rickstins is a former captain in the Latvian Army.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) records, New York City, New York, reflect Heinrichs Bagatais was admitted to the United States at New York, New York, on December 15, 1951, under the Latvian quota as an eligible displaced person (visa granted under Displaced Persons Act of 1948 as amended). His destination was listed as in care of Mrs. Irene Nadzina, 194 Cherry Street, Waterbury, Connecticut.

The following description of Bagatais was obtained from INS records:

Name	Heinrichs Bagatais
Date of Birth	September 12, 1919
	Balvi, Latvia

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GROUP 1

CS CC-V

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH

FBI

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Heinrichs W. Bagatais

Sex
Race
Height
Weight
Eyes
Hair
Complexion
Marks and Scars

Marital Status
Parents

Employment

Residence

Organizations

Citizenship

Certificate number

Male
White
Six feet
200 pounds
Blue
Blond (balding)
Light
Left arm amputated
(wears artificial
hand)
Single
Father,
Andreas Bagatais-
deceased
Mother,
Emma Bagatais
nee Ozolins,
High Way Home,
Sidney, Australia
Poux Dist.
Company, Incorporated,
1841 Park Avenue,
New York City
as shipping clerk
from 1951 through 1957
1772 Vyse Avenue,
Bronx, New York, 1951
and 1952
410-411/4 East 163rd
Street, Bronx, New
York, 1953 to 1955
412 Cathedral Parkway, West,
New York, New York,
Apartment 2, 1955 to ?
Daugavas Vanagi,
Incorporated
Naturalized United
States citizen,
April 22, 1957, United
States District Court,
Southern District of New
York
7932782

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On June 19, 1963, Mr. Alfred Berzins, Radio Free Europe, 2 Park Avenue, New York City, New York, who is active in Latvian organizations in the United States advised SAS of the FBI that he first met Bagatais during 1957 when Bagatais was Chairman of Daugavas Vanagi. Berzins advised that Daugavas Vanagi is strongly anti-Communist in its beliefs and Bagatais has been very active in this organization during the years that he has been in the United States.

Berzins heard that Bagatais went to Australia for one year during 1962 to visit his mother's home and he returned to the United States during the approximate month of March or April of 1963. Berzins further stated that there had been some talk concerning how Bagatais was able to obtain the large amount of money necessary for travel to Australia. He has learned that Bagatais obtained a loan from a bank for this trip and travelled by merchant ship.

Mr. Berzins stated that he had ascertained that Bagatais is presently residing at 412 Cathedral Parkway, New York, New York.

He also stated that he has heard nothing of a derogatory nature concerning Bagatais and that he is highly respected by Latvians in the New York area. Bagatais is considered a Latvian war hero and was wounded while fighting against the Russians during World War II as a member of the Latvian contingent of

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Heinrichs W. Bagatais

the German Army. Mr. Borzins has no reason to doubt the loyalty of Bagatais to the United States.

On July 12, 1963, Reverend Richard Zarins, Pastor of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, New York, New York, who resides at 564 Second Street, Brooklyn, New York, was interviewed by SAs of the FBI. Reverend Zarins stated that he has been acquainted with Bagatais since the latter first came to the United States during 1951. He commented that Bagatais had been an officer in the Latvian contingent of the German Army which fought against Russia during World War II. Since he has been in the United States he has been very active in Daugavas Vanagi. Bagatais attends services of Reverend Zarins church on special holidays but as of this date he has not joined the church.

Reverend Zarins described Bagatais as an individual who is interested in the classics and he is known to have a fine collection of paintings. Zarins had numerous contacts with Bagatais during the time that he was Chairman of the Daugavas Vanagi. During this period of time Daugavas Vanagi sponsored many concerts and as such Reverend Zarins and Bagatais were brought into close contact with each other.

Several years ago Bagatais travelled to Australia as a tourist. Then during 1962 he went to Australia with the intention of remaining in that country. However during April or May of 1963 he returned to the United States. He returned because he was disillusioned with Australia and believed that the United States was a better country in which to live. He further stated that Bagatais is very interested in traveling and would much prefer to spend money for travel than to purchase a car or a house.

Bagatais is highly thought of among Latvians in the New York area and Reverend Zarins has never heard anything of a derogatory nature concerning him and he has no reason to doubt Bagatais' loyalty to the United States.

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Reverend Zarins was of the opinion that Bagatais is employed in New York City as a shipping clerk however he does not know the name of the firm which employs Bagatais.

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